



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH February 29, 2008

Wendy Furniss, Branch Chief, Health Care Systems Branch 509-7406

Senate Bill 241 - An Act Examining the Licensure System for the Department of Children and Families

The Department of Public Health provides the following information with regard to Senate Bill 241.

This bill seeks to establish a committee to examine and evaluate the existing licensure structure for DCF facilities. Although it identifies that a committee will evaluate such a transfer of authority, it provides a minimum amount of time for this review, approximately six months.

Currently, Section 19a-490 of the Connecticut General Statutes exempts Riverview from licensure by DPH. This proposal calls for Riverview to be licensed by DPH by July 1, 2009 and for the Department of Public Health to promulgate regulations for such oversight. Should DPH assume this licensure function it will need additional resources to both inspect the hospital. Please note that currently DPH licenses most healthcare entities on a biannual basis, not the annual basis proposed in this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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